

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants	: Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.	Group Art Unit : 3656
Appl. No.	: 09/961,365	Examiner : M. Charles
Filed	: September 25, 2001	Confirmation No. : 5941
For	: THIN AUTOTENSIONER	

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the outstanding Official Action of December 23, 2008, in which a one-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on January 23, 2009, Applicants respectfully request passage of the present application to allowance in view of the herein contained amendments.

**Claim Amendments** begin on page 2 of this paper.  
**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.